"When I visited Kentucky, I found it so far to exceed my expectations

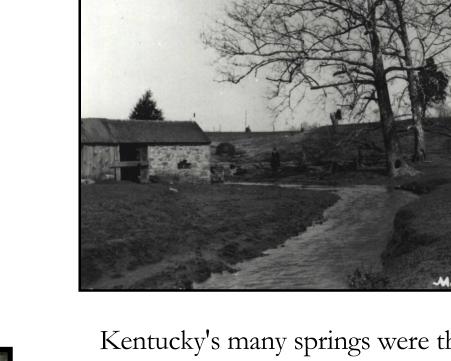
. . . that I concluded it was a pity that the world had not adequate information of it."

John Filson, 1784

Kentucky in 1790

In addition to elk, bison, mountain lion, and bear, many birds were found in Kentucky that are no longer here. John James Audubon traveled extensively throughout the state in the early 1800s painting birds, some that are now extinct. Passenger pigeons, hunted for food, darkened the skies when they flew over in flocks sometimes containing more than a million birds. Carolina parakeets and passenger pigeons had both completely disappeared by the early 1900s.





Kentucky's many springs were the sites of the earliest settlements. This photo is of the spring at Lynn Station in Jefferson County, occupied by some of Kentucky's earliest pioneers in the 1700s.

The area in this photo is typical of the savanna landscape that was found throughout the central Bluegrass Region. This remnant savanna is Griffith Woods, a Registered Natural Area in Harrison County.



Wetlands covered much of the Jackson Purchase region. Early settlers put buildings on stilts, such as the school in this photo, to keep it raised from the regularly occurring floods.



This photo shows Polksville Knob Lick, a famous salt lick that is found on maps of the 1700s.

What more excited the admiration of

immigrants was the profusion of game,

which everywhere abounded and

included beasts of every American kind."

Gilbert Imlay, 1784

"A salt spring is called a lick, from the earth about it being furrowed out in a most curious manner by the buffalo and deer, which lick the earth on account of the saline particles with which

"It appears there are a great number of subterraneous caverns in the Barrens We remarked in these meadows several holes, widened at the top in the hape of funnels

In some of these holds. ... flows a small vein

of water...... These kind of springs never fail.

Andre Michaux, 1793

of the very garden spot of Kentucky." "I have seen oaks of many species Gilbert Imlay, 1784 but those of Kentucky excel in grandeur vall I had ever before held.

John Muir 1867 Bryant's Station

it is impregnated." Gilbert Imlay 1784

"The buffalo were more frequent than I have seen cattle in the settlements . we saw hundreds . . . and the numbers about the salt springs were amazing."

"Springs bubbled up in all parts

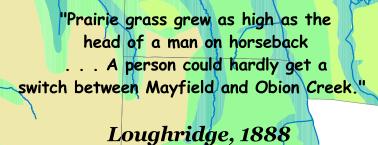
After a long and fatiguing journey through Daniel Boone, 1769 a mountainous wilderness from the top of an eminence,

(we) saw with pleasure the beautiful level of Kentucky.'

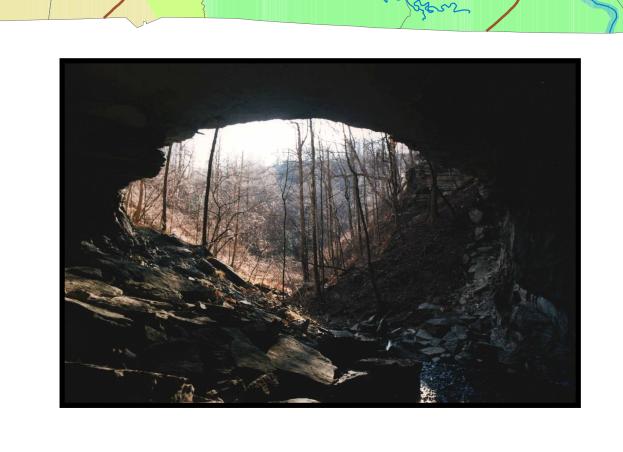
Daniel Boone, 1769

Some of Western Kentucky's best wetlands, large bayous and swamps with cypress and tupelo trees, have been preserved and provide needed habitat for wildlife.

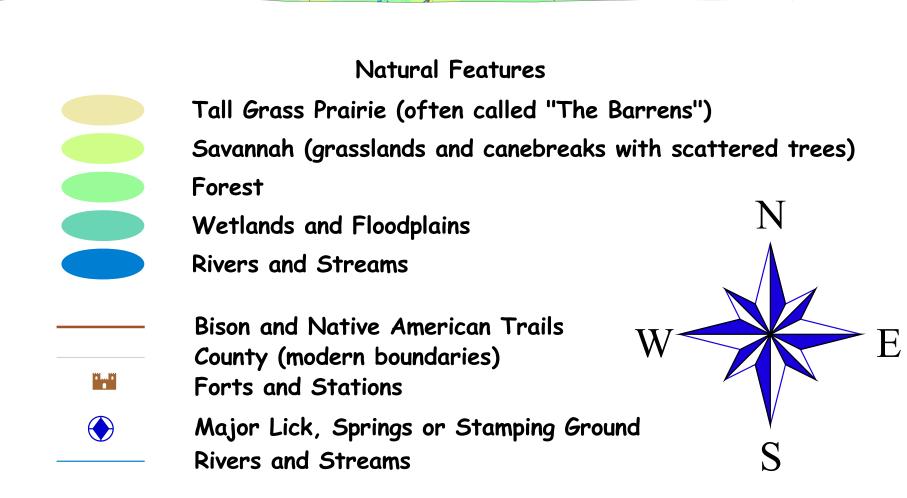








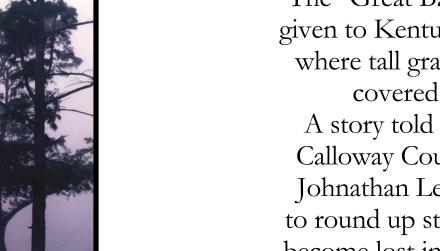
Maulding's Station







Kentucky Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet Office of Information Services Geographic Information Systems Branch



The "Great Barrens" was the name given to Kentucky's vast prairie area, where tall grasses and wildflowers covered the landscape. A story told of the Lee family in Calloway County describes young Johnathan Lee on horseback sent to round up stray cattle, who would become lost in the grasses that were over his head - even on horseback!